

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR NINE SOURCE CATEGORIES (RTR GROUP 2A)

ACTION

- On September 29, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to retain without modification five air toxics rules covering nine types of production processes.
- The air toxics standards, the promulgation date for each standard, and source categories regulated by the standards and affected by this proposed rulemaking are:
 - Group I Polymers and Resins (09/05/96) which include the following processes:
 - Epichlorohydrin Elastomers Production,
 - HypalonTM Production,
 - Nitrile Butadiene Rubber Production,
 - Polybutadiene Rubber Production, and
 - Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Latex Production
 - Marine Vessel Loading Operations (09/19/95)
 - Mineral Wool Production (06/01/99)
 - Pharmaceuticals Production (09/21/98)
 - Printing and Publishing Industry (05/30/96)
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the final MACT standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment.
- The risk assessment found that after application of the MACT standards the chronic cancer risks are below 100-in-1 million, which is acceptable, and additional controls were not cost-effective; therefore, the MACT standards provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health and no further cancer risk reduction was required. The analysis also found that non-cancer and acute risks to humans, as well as ecological risks from these facilities, were low and that no further controls were warranted.
- EPA must also review and revise MACT standards, as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes, and control technologies since the standards were issued.
- The technology assessment did not identify any advancements in practices, processes, or control technology.
- EPA concludes that the existing MACT standards effectively address air toxic emissions for all nine production processes and that no additional controls are necessary. Therefore, EPA is proposing no revisions to the current MACT standards.

- The Agency will accept comment on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from large industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or “source category”). These MACT standards are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the better-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within 8 years of setting the MACT standards, Clean Air Act section 112(f) directs EPA to assess the remaining health risks from each source category to determine whether the MACT standards protect public health with an ample margin of safety and protect against adverse environmental effects. This second phase is a “risk-based” approach called residual risk. Here, EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every 8 years after setting the MACT standards, Clean Air Act section 112 (d)(6) requires that EPA review and revise the standards, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention.
- The previously-issued air toxic standards for these nine production processes are five of 96 air toxic standards called maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.
- After implementation of the air toxic rules, air toxic emissions from the nine source categories is approximately 11,750 tons per year from process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, wastewater systems, transfer racks, cupola furnaces, blowing chambers, curing ovens, cooling chambers, printing presses, dryers, and ink and solvent storage.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0008, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - www.regulations.gov: follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- E-mail: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.
- Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-1741
- Mail: Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington, D.C. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- Today's proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters , Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0008.
- For further information, contact Mary Tom Kissell of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone at (919) 541-4516 or by e-mail at kissell.mary@epa.gov.